

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 IO-13 OIC-02 CIAE-00
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TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01
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P R 120838Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7360
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INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
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NEA/RA FROM USDEL TABRIZ

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TAGS: OCON, CENTO, EAID, TU, PK, IR
SUBJ: TWENTY-SIXTH MEETING OF CENTO ECONOMIC COMMITTEE,
TABRIZ, MARCH 7-9, 1978

SUMMARY: OUTCOME OF TWENTY-SIXTH MEETING OF CENTO ECONOMIC
COMMITTEE, HELD IN TABRIZ, MARCH 7-9, WAS GENERALLY SATIS-
FACTORY FROM US POINT OF VIEW. ALTHOUGH PAKISTAN PRODDDED
ONCE AGAIN ON ISSUE OF US CONTRIBUTION OF DLS500,000 TOWARD
UPGRADING OF PAKISTAN CIVIL MICROWAVE LINK, ITS DELEGATE
INFORMALLY ACKNOWLEDGED TO US DEL PALMER THAT GOP WAS
PREPARED TO GIVE UP ON THIS MATTER. IN UNUSUAL MOVE,
COMMITTEE ADJUSTED SOME PROJECT PRIORITIES RECOMMENDED
BY ECONOMIC STEERING GROUP (EXPANDED) (ESG (E)).
COMMITTEE ADDED SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSFER OF
TECHNOLOGY TO LIST OF PRIORITIES FOR CENTO ECONOMIC
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PROGRAM WHILE DECLINING TO ENDORSE RANK-ORDERING OF THOSE
PRIORITIES. US NOTED TWO CONDITIONS GOVERNING ITS OWN
OBSERVATION OF THE PRIORITIES: (1) CONGRESSIONAL EMPHASIS
ON AID TO THE POOREST AND (2) PRIVATE OWNERSHIP OF MOST
US TECHNOLOGY. IN FACE OF CONSENSUS AMONG REGIONALS, US
RELUCTANTLY AGREED TO COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO CONTINUE
POSITION OF SENIOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISER UNTIL

1979 WHEN COMMITTEE WILL REVIEW OUTPUT FROM THIS POSITION AND FROM THAT OF SENIOR AGRICULTURAL ADVISER AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THEIR CONTINUATION. REGIONALS INSISTED THAT UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CONTINUE. AS RESULT OF MEETING, US IS REQUIRED TO TAKE FOLLOWING ACTIONS: (1) DETERMINE WHETHER FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION WOULD BE WILLING TO SPONSOR SEMINAR ON "TERMINAL PROCEDURES AT AIRPORTS, INCLUDING AIRPORT SECURITY"; AND (2) INFORM GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN OF BASIS ON WHICH US AID FOUND PAKISTANI CIVIL MICROWAVE LINK ECONOMICALLY UNFEASIBLE. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING WERE HIGHLIGHTS OF TWENTY-SIXTH MEETING OF CENTO ECONOMIC COMMITTEE, TABRIZ, MARCH 7-9:
A. PRIORI OF CENTO ECONOMIC PROGRAM. IN VIEW OF DIFFERING ECONOMIC PRIORITIES OF THREE REGIONAL COUNTRIES, US AND UK ACCEDED TO VIEW OF REGIONALS IT WAS INAPPROPRIATE TO RANK ORDER PRIORITIES OF CENTO ECONOMIC PROGRAM AS RECOMMENDED BY ESG (E), IN JANUARY. COMMITTEE AGREED TO LIST PRIORITIES ALPHABETICALLY WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THEIR RELATIVE IMPORTANCE AND MODIFIED WHAT HAD BEEN LAST PRIORITY, "INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT" TO READ "INDUSTRIAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY". ECONOMIC PRIORITIES NOW READ: AGRICULTURE; AGRO-INDUSTRY; COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS; INDUSTRIAL, SCIENTIFIC, AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INCLUDING TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY; MINERALS DEVELOPMENT, RURAL HEALTH. US DEL STATED FOR RECORD THAT, WHILE USG WISHED TO BE RESPONSIVE TO CONCERNS OF REGIONAL MEMBERS, (1) ALL FIVE CENTO COUNTRIES, AND MARKEDLY USG, RECOGNIZED JUSTIFICATION FOR CONCENTRATING ASSISTANCE ON POOREST OF POOR, WHO IN CENTO REGIONAL ARE FREQUENTLY RURAL POPULATION (UK DEL AGREED); (2) SINCE MOST US TECHNOLOGY IS PRIVATELY OWNED AND USG CANNOT GIVE AWAY WHAT IT DOES NOT OWN, TO AVOID UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS IT WAS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THAT US TECHNOLOGY IS NORMALLY TRANSFERRED THROUGH FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT AND THROUGH LICENSING ARRANGEMENTS.
B. SCHOLARSHIPS. DESPITE UNDERSTANDING OF DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (ECONOMIC) (DSG) (E) AND US DEL THAT IT HAD BEEN INTENTION OF ECONOMIC COMMITTEE AT TWENTY-FIFTH MEETING AND OF MULTILATERAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION FUND (MTCF) AND ESG (E) SUBSEQUENTLY TO PLACE MORATORIUM ON NEW UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS, PAKISTAN DEL DISAGREED AND WAS SUPPORTED BY IRAN. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED THAT, SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS, MTCF WORKING PARTY SHOULD GIVE PRIORITY TO POST-GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS OVER UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS AND, IN AWARDING SCHOLARSHIPS, IT SHOULD CONSIDER, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, PRIORITIES OF

ECONOMIC PROGRAM. RECOMMENDATION IN SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH THAT SECRETARIAT DEVISE SYSTEM FOR EVALUATING USEFULNESS OF ITS TRAINING PROGRAMS PROVIDES USG WITH FURTHER OPPORTUNITY TO BRING SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CLOSER TO CENTO PRIORITIES.

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NSC-05 SS-15 STR-07 CEA-01 DODE-00 PA-01 L-03
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C. CIVIL MICROWAVE PROJECT. PAKISTAN DELEGATE GASKED US FOR CRITERIA ON BASIS OF WHICH AID HAD FOUND PAKISTAN CIVIL MICROWAVE PROJECT ECONOMICALLY UNFEASIBLE, IN ORDER THAT GOP MIGHT RESPOND. THIS WAS SWITCH FROM UNDERSTANDING REACHED AT 25TH MEETING IN ISLAMABAD, WHEN THE BALL WAS LEFT IN PAKISTAN'S COURT. PAKISTAN DEL SAID GOP WOULD SOON PROPOSE AN ALTERNATIVE PROJECT FOR USE OF DLS\$500,000 WHICH U.S. HAD PLEDGED. US DEL REPLIED THAT WHILE WE WOULD PROVIDE BASIS OF OUR FINDING ON MICROWAVE PROJECT, ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY WAS ONLY ONE OF RELEVANT FACTORS. PROJECT DID NOT APPEAR TO CONFORM WITH CONGRESSIONAL CRITERIA FOR FOREIGN ASSISTANCE. US DEL THEREFORE WELCOMED WORD THAT GOP WAS PREPARING AN ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL, AND WOULD DO ITS BEST TO HONOR ITS COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT AN APPROPRIATE CENTO PROJECT OR PROJECTS. PAKISTAN DEL INFORMALLY TOLD US HE UNDERSTOOD

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FUTILITY OF PURSUING MICROWAVE PROJECT; ALTERNATIVE PROPOAL HAS TO DO WITH OILSEED PRODUCTION IN THE REGIONAL COUNTRIES.

D. SENIOR AGRICULTURAL ADVISER; SENIOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISER CHAIRMAN TANKED USG FOR HAVING AGREED TO EXTEND FUNDING OF POSTION OF SENIOR AGRICULTURAL ADVISER UNTIL SEPTEMBER 1979, CONTINGENT UPON CONTINUATION OF THIS POSITION IN AID STAFFING. IN KEEPING WITH US OFFER, ECONOMIC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED TO REORGANIZATION WORKING GROUP THAT IT CONTINUE POSITIONS OF BOTH SENIOR ARICULTURAL ADVISER AND SENIOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISER (SIDA) FOR ONE MORE YEAR. US DEL STATED HIS RELUCTANT CONCURRENCE TO CONTINUATION OF SIDA POSITION, GIVEN SPARSE RESULTS THAT HAVE COME FROM IT. HOWEVER, STRONG INTEREST OF REGIONALS IN POSITIONS CONTINUATION AND COMMITTEE DECISIONS TO REQUIRE SIDA TO REPORT TO SUBCOMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY AND MINERALS HAD PROMPTED OUR AGREEMENT.

E. PANJGUR CIVIL AIRWAYS COMMUNICATION PROPOSAL. ASKED IN PRO FORMA MANNER BY PAKISTAN DEL ABOUT PRESENT STATE OF PANJGUR CIVIL AIRWAYS COMMUNICATIONS PROPOSAL, US DEL REPLIED THAT OUR (NEGATIVE) POSITION HAD NOT CHANGED.

F. SEMINAR ON AIRPORT TEMINAL PROCEDURES AND SECURITY. WHEN UK DEL VOICED DOUBT THAT HHG COULD SPONSOR A SECOND CIVIL AVIATION SEMINAR, CHAIAN (BAHRAM PANAH, IRAN) ASKED IF USG MIGHT SPONSOR PROGRAM ON "TERMINAL PROCEDURES AT AIRPORTS" WITH STRESS ON SECURITY ASPECTS AS SUGGESTED BY PAKISTAN DEL. IT WAS AGREED THAT IF REGIONAL PARTICIPANTS WOULD PAY FOR THEIR TRANSPORTATION TO U.S. AND MTCF WOULD PAY PER DIEM, WE WOULD SEEK FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION SPONSORSHIP OF PROGRAM INCLUDING US DOMESTIC TRANSPORTATION COSTS.

G. SCHEDULE OF 1978 ACTIVITIES. IN SURPRISE MOVE, PAKIST
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DEL INSISTED ON REORDERING PRIORITIES OF SOME OF THE PROJECTS RECOMMENDED BY ESG (E) IN JANUARY. U.S. AND UK DELS NOTED POSSIBLE DISRUPTIVE EFFECT OF THESE CHANGES BUT DEFERRED TO REGIONALS' DESIRES. PROJECTS 1, 3-6, 8 AND 10 LISTED UNDER "MEETINGS TO BE HELD... SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS", EC/26/A1, ANNEX A, PP. 10-11, WERE GIVEN PRIORITY OVER CERTAIN NEW PROPOSALS IN FIELD OF AGRICULTURE, I.E., NOS. 2, 3, 9-14, 16-23 LISTED ON PAGES 4-6 OF SAME DOCUMENT.
G. COMMITTEE APPROVED FOLLOWING CHANGES IN NOMENCLATURE:

--1. ECONOMIC STEERING GROUP (EXPANDED) WILL HENCEFORTH BE KNOWN AS ECONOMIC STEERING GROUP.
--2. ADVISORY GROUP ON MINERALS DEVELOPMENT WILL BE KNOWN AS SUBCOMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY AND MINERALS. CHANGES IS MADE IN INTEREST OF STANDARDIZING NAMES OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF ECONOMIC COMMITTEE, AND OF REQUIRING SENIOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISER, AS MATTER OF WORK DISCIPLINE, TO

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REPORT FOR FIRST TIME TO A SUBCOMMITTEE.

--3. COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC EDUCATION AND RESEARCH WILL BE KNOWN AS SUBCOMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

2. US DEL NOTED THAT MOST SELECTIONS HAD BEEN MADE FOR FIVE FELLOWSHIPS AFFORDED BY U.S. FOR SCHOLAR/EXPERTS FROM REGIONAL COUNTRIES.

3. COMMITTEE DECIDED TO HOLD ITS NEXT MEETING IN MID-MARCH 1979, AT SITE IN TURKEY TO BE DETERMINED BY TURKISH GOVERNMENT.

4. IN THEIR CONCLUDING REMARKS, CHAIRMAN AND DELEGATES WERE ENTHUSIASTIC IN PRAISE OF FSO S. DOUGLAS MARTIN FOR

HIS HIGH QUALITY OF WORK DURING TENURE AS DEPUTY SECRETARY
GENERAL (ECONOMIC) IN SHARPENING PRIORITIES OF CENTO'S
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ECONOMIC PROGRAMS AND MAKING IT MORE ACTION-ORIENTED.
DELEGATES DEEPLY REGRETTED DEPARTURE OF MARTIN ON
REASSIGNMENT LATER THIS YEAR AFTER TWO YEARS AS DSG (E).

5. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE:

- (A) PREPARE FOR PALMER'S REVIEW MARCH 17 A STATEMENT
AS TO WHY AID DETERMINED THAT PROPOSED UPGRADING OF
PAKISTAN CIVILIAN MICROWAVE LINK WOULD BE ECONOMICALLY
UNFEASIBLE. WE HOPE TRANSMITTAL OF OUR ANALYSIS TO
GOP WILL PUT TO REST THIS MICROWAVE ISSUE.
 - (B) PREPARE TO RESPOND TO FORTHCOMING QUERY FROM CENTO
SECRETARIAT RE WILLINGNESS OF FAA TO SPONSOR SEMINAR
PROGRAM PER PARA 1.F. ABOVE, AND
 - (C) PROVED EMBASSY ANKARA GUIDANCE ON CRITERIA FOR
EVALUATING USEFULNESS OF CENTO TRAINING AND SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAMS.
- SULLIVAN

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